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### (54) Encapsulated self adhering acoustic mat for sandwich used in vehicle interior systems

(57) A reinforcing mat for use in vehicle trim panels, such as a headliner or roof liner, comprising a fiber layer, first and second polymer layers on each side of the fiber layer encapsulating the fibers and an adhesive layer on at least one outer surface of the first and second polymer layers. The resulting mat is perforated or apertured in either a random or non-random fashion to provide an open mat. A method of manufacturing the mat is provided in which the polymer layers are extruded onto the fiber layer and at least one adhesive outer layer is co-extruded with one of the polymer layers. After the polymer and adhesive layers are extruded, the mat is perforated either by a punch roller or a vacuum roller which displaces the polymer and adhesive from the spaces between the fibers.

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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 12 2709

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		31 May 2000	Stinchcombe, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
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